

4. (Amended) The method according to Claim 28, wherein said nucleic acid comprises nucleotides 81-944 of the human heme oxygenase-I nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

5. (Amended) The method according to Claim 28, wherein said contacting is *ex vivo*.

6. (Amended) The method according to Claim 28, wherein said contacting is *in vivo*.

7. (Amended) The method according to Claim 28, wherein said organ transplant is an allograft.

9. (Amended) The method according to Claim 28, wherein said contacting is with a liposome-mediated nucleic acid transfer vehicle.

10. (Amended) The method according to Claim 28, wherein said contacting is with a viral-mediated nucleic acid transfer vehicle.

11. (Amended) The method according to Claim 28, wherein said contacting is accomplished by direct injection of said nucleic acid into said organ.

12. (Amended) The method according to Claim 28, wherein the heme oxygenase-I activity in said cells is increased.

16. (Amended) The method according to Claim 29, wherein said contacting is *ex vivo*.

17. (Amended) The method according to Claim 29, wherein said contacting is *in vivo*.

18. (Amended) The method according to Claim 29, wherein said organ transplant is an allograft.

20. (Amended) The method according to Claim 29, wherein said contacting is with a liposome-mediated nucleic acid transfer vehicle.

21. (Amended) The method according to Claim 29, wherein said contacting is with a viral-mediated nucleic acid transfer vehicle.

22. (Amended) The method according to Claim 29, wherein said contacting is accomplished by direct injection of said nucleic acid molecule into said organ.

Please enter the following new claims.

28. (New) A method for extending the survival of an organ transplant in a recipient, said method comprising:

contacting cells of an organ transplant with a nucleic acid having at least about 80% sequence identity to nucleotides 81-944 of the human heme oxygenase-I nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having heme-oxygenase activity;

whereby the survival time of said organ transplant is extended.

29. (New) A method for extending the survival of an organ transplant in a recipient, said method comprising:

contacting cells of an organ transplant with a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having at least about 80% amino acid sequence identity with the human heme oxygenase-I polypeptide encoded by nucleotides 81-944 of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said polypeptide has heme-oxygenase activity;

whereby the survival time of said organ transplant is extended.

30. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein said polypeptide comprises human heme oxygenase I encoded by nucleotides 81-944 of the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO: 1.

31. (New) The method according to Claim 29, wherein the heme oxygenase-I activity in said cells is increased.

REMARKS

Claims 4-12, 16-22, and 28-31 remain pending in the application following entry of the amendments. Without admitting the propriety of the rejection and in a desire to advance prosecution of this case, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-3, 13-15, and 26-27. Claims 28-31 have been added. Claims 4-7, 9-12, and 16-22 have been amended to depend from the